

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 15, 20, 26, 28 and 32 and add new claims 51 and 52 so that the claims read as follows:

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) An absorbent garment comprising:
a body panel having a length defined along a longitudinal direction and [a] opposite side [edge] edges; and
a fastening member comprising at least two independently moveable tab members each having an engagement portion releasably and refastenably engaging said body panel, wherein said tab members extend laterally inward in the same direction from one of said side [edge] edges of said body panel and wherein said tab members are offset in said longitudinal direction, each of said engagement portions having an engagement length, wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is at least about 20% of said body panel length.
16. (Original) The invention of claim 15 wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is less than about 90% of said body panel length.
17. (Original) The invention of claim 16 wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is between about 30% and about 80% of said body panel length.
18. (Original) The invention of claim 17 wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is between about 40% and about 60% of said body panel length.
19. (Original) The invention of claim 15 wherein said body panel comprises a front body panel.
20. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 19 wherein said fastening

member comprises a carrier member having a length and further comprising a rear body panel comprising a side edge having a length secured to said one of said side [edge] edges of said front body panel along a seam having a length.

21. (Original) The invention of claim 20 wherein said length of said carrier member is at least about 50% of said length of said seam.

22. (Original) The invention of claim 21 wherein said length of said carrier member is at least about 90% of said length of said seam.

23. (Original) The invention of claim 20 wherein said length of said carrier member is at least about 50% of said length of said side edge of said rear body panel.

24. (Original) The invention of claim 23 wherein said length of said carrier member is at least about 90% of said length of said side edge of said rear body panel.

25. (Original) The invention of claim 20 wherein said carrier member is fixedly secured to said rear body panel.

26. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 20 wherein said front body panel comprises a pair of side portions each defining one of said opposite side edges and a landing member extending between said side portions, wherein said at least two engagement portions are releasably engaged with said landing member, and wherein said carrier member is fixedly secured to said side portions of said front body panel.

27. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 20 said front and rear body panels have substantially the same width.

28. (Currently Amended) An absorbent garment comprising:

a body panel having a length defined along a longitudinal direction and opposite [a] side [edge] edges; and

a fastening member comprising a carrier member defining at least two independently moveable tab members extending laterally inward in the same direction from one of said side [edge] edges of said body panel and an engagement portion disposed on each of said tab members and wherein said tab members are offset in said longitudinal direction, wherein said engagement portions releasably and refastenably engage said body panel, and wherein each of said engagement portions has an engagement length, wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is at least about 20% of said body panel length.

29. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 28 wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is less than about 90% of said body panel length.

30. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 29 wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is between about 30% and about 80% of said body panel length.

31. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 30 wherein the sum of said engagement lengths is between about 40% and about 60% of said body panel length.

32. (Currently Amended) The invention of claim 28 wherein said body panel comprises a front body panel, wherein said carrier member comprises a base portion, wherein said tab members extend from said base portion, and wherein said base portion has a length, and further comprising a rear body panel comprising a side edge having a length secured to said one of said side [edge] edges of said front body panel along a seam having a length, wherein said length of said carrier member is at least about 50% of said length of said seam.

33. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 32 wherein said length of

said carrier member is at least about 90% of said length of said seam.

34. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 32 wherein said length of said carrier member is at least about 50% of said length of said side edge of said rear body panel.

35. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 32 wherein said carrier member is fixedly secured to said rear body panel.

36. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 28 wherein said body panel comprises a landing member, wherein said at least two engagement portions are releasably engaged with said landing member.

37. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 32 wherein said front and rear body panels have substantially the same width.

Claims 38-50 (Cancelled).

51. (New) The invention of claim 15 wherein said fastening member is fixedly secured to said body panel at a location proximate said one of said side edges and wherein said at least two independently moveable tab members each have a free edge positioned laterally inward from said location.

52. (New) The invention of claim 28 wherein said fastening member is fixedly secured to said body panel at a location proximate said one of said side edges and wherein said at least two independently moveable tab members each have a free edge positioned laterally inward from said location.